

FEBRUARY 6, 2016 BY **EVANGELISMCOACH****1 COMMENT**

Example of Spiritual Thirst: A Wild Conversation

I was in Panama last month on a business trip.

I had lunch with one of the people that I met.

He was a German business man living in Panama.

He left Germany behind and trying to [start](#) his life over in Panama on the crest of a real estate building boom.

This is when an example of spiritual thirst appeared.



Panama City Panama

He opens the door to potential conversation

The person who arranged for us to [meet](#) mentioned that I was a minister.

It was a surprise to this German man that I could be a both business man and a minister.

After expressing his surprise, he quickly volunteered the following information:

he wasn't walking in the ways of the Lord and that perhaps we should have lunch.

His frank admission seemed to come from left field.

It startled me.

[Is that spiritual thirst?](#) (Read the tutorial). Yes.



I've learned that when people suddenly open up about their spiritual condition, it's an invitation to further discussion.

I scheduled lunch for the next day!

Spiritual Thirst appears in a lunch conversation

Over lunch we talk.

He tells me his story that clues me in that he's a workaholic who has paid an enormous cost for this addiction.

Along the way, some of his claims:

- “I believe in the goodness of humanity, but can’t understand why they do bad things.”
- “Religion is the worst sickness of mankind.”
- “If we got rid of religion, the world would be a better place.”
- “To create the perfect world, we also have to stop overpopulating.”
- “I’d rather kill 100,000 people than to harm an animal.”
- “I can’t understand why people are religious, I have no religious thoughts or inclinations.”

Evidence of Spiritual Thirst

In listening to his tone of voice, reading his body language, and listening between the lines of what he said, the spiritual thirst became clear to me:

- He didn’t like who he had become.
- His compulsion to work left him empty.
- His addiction to work had cost him nearly all his friends. He was alone in a foreign country.

He wasn’t yet seeing that his personal restlessness was a spiritual longing.

The restlessness in his heart is not only a [symptom](#) of his brokenness, but also of his need for the Lord.

Amplifying the Spiritual Thirst

Although I could clearly see his need for the Lord to fill that restlessness, he wasn't connecting the dots yet.

For this man, the [next step in his journey towards Christ](#) is to connect the dots.

His restlessness reflects the longing of the human heart to find the satisfaction that can be found only in a relationship with God.

The task then becomes asking the Lord to help this man connect the dots.

- To increase the sense of restlessness, that sense of spiritual thirst, that would propel him to seek God.
- To connect that emptiness he expressed with a spiritual longing that he didn't think he had.

Ecclesiastes gives an example of Spiritual Thirst

Ecclesiastes was much like this man, trying to fill the emptiness of the human heart with something meaningful. (I elaborate [more on Ecclesiastes here](#))

I began to share with my lunch friend about a wise man who once tried to fulfill his heart with everything.

Read chapter 2.

But at the end, he discovers that only a relationship with God will fill that void, that restlessness.

We talked and talked about what this wise man discovered.

Using questions inspired at the moment, along with my knowledge of Ecclesiastes, we had a long conversation that effectively amplified this man's spiritual thirst.

It was clear to me that this man was not aware of the conviction of sin that leads to repentance. He was not at that place.

Instead, I left him with a next step:

To read the book of Ecclesiastes and ponder it's meaning.

I have never seen him again.

Let me ask you this?

How would you have interacted with him?

Panama Image Source: I took it 😊

Water Image: [jet d'eau](#) via [\(license\)](#)

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- [Tangible Signs of Spiritual Thirst](#)
- [How would you answer?](#)
- [Spiritual Thirst - The Key Clue to Faith Conversations](#)
- [30 Days of Prayer: Day 18 - Common Spiritual Thirsts](#)
- [Effective Evangelistic Conversations DVD](#)
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About EvangelismCoach

Chris wants to help you increase the number of conversations that lead people towards Christ. He has studied evangelism and church growth ever since working for a Billy Graham crusade over 20 years ago, and has led countless training seminars throughout North and South America in many different denominations.

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